

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 65**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 24**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 65—Relative to the San Francisco Bar Pilots.

[Filed with Secretary of State February 18, 2000.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SCR 65, Burton. San Francisco Bar Pilots.

This measure would honor the former and current members of the San Francisco Bar Pilots for their important role, throughout California's history, in the enhancement of maritime commerce, protection of cargoes, and safeguarding the fragile environment of the bays and rivers on which they have served.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bar Pilots, established by Captain William Richardson, have continuously assisted maritime trade and protected the navigable waters of San Francisco Bay and adjoining waters since 1835; and

WHEREAS, In the California Legislature's very first session at Pueblo de San Jose, which began on December 15, 1849, and ended on April 22, 1850, the Assembly and Senate quickly recognized the importance of pilotage to the state's commerce; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 1 of the 1849–50 legislative session established the State Archives; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of the 1849–50 legislative session established the State Printer; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 3 of the 1849–50 legislative session, authorized the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint pilots for the ports and harbors of California. That bill passed on January 8, 1850, and was signed by California's first Governor, Peter H. Burnett; and

WHEREAS, In that same legislative session, Chapter 18 was passed on February 25, 1850, and was signed by Governor Burnett. It established the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Port of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Port of San Francisco, now known as the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun, is the longest operating state board or commission in California history; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature in 1853 at the State Capitol in Benicia, concerned that maritime safety and commerce was being endangered by competition among unaffiliated pilots, enacted a bill that required all bar pilots operating in San Francisco to work

cooperatively under the auspices of the preexisting San Francisco Bar Pilots organization. That bill was signed by California's third Governor, John Bigler; and

WHEREAS, Many years later, as a result of Chapter 1653 of the Statutes of 1984, all inland and river pilots working within the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun, and on their tributaries, came under the jurisdiction of the Board of Pilot Commissioners and affiliated with the San Francisco Bar Pilots; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bar Pilots at all times, in all weather conditions, have been continuously stationed for 150 years near the "SF" buoy 12 miles west of the Golden Gate; and

WHEREAS, All vessels of 300 gross tons or more engaged in foreign trade are required to have a San Francisco Bar Pilot on board to cross the enormous horseshoe shaped sandbar seaward of San Francisco Bay, to enter the Golden Gate, and to navigate the waters of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun Bays. The San Francisco Bar Pilots are now responsible for the safe passage of nearly 9,000 vessels each year that range from 100-foot tugs to 1000-foot supertankers, and that include container and bulk cargo ships, military vessels, and cruise ships; and

WHEREAS, The waters worked by the San Francisco Bar Pilots are some of our nation's busiest. Commercial and recreational fishing boats, commuter ferries, military and Coast Guard vessels, pleasure craft, and commercial ships and tankers all share the waters. Through this veritable water-traffic jam, the pilots guide the biggest ships with the most dangerous cargo; and

WHEREAS, These waters are affected by thick fog, high winds, and winter storms and are characterized by shifting currents and tides, by treacherous shoals, sandbars, and rock formations, and by narrow channels and rivers; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bar Pilots serve seven ports including Benicia, Oakland, Redwood City, Richmond, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Stockton as well as numerous anchorages and terminals outside of port jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, The waters protected by the San Francisco Bar Pilots are the largest estuary on the west coast of North and South America; they include 1,000 miles of shoreline and more than 90 percent of California's coastal marshland; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the rare skills necessary for a person to safely pilot in these unique waters, the Board of Pilot Commissioners, in 1986, established a comprehensive training program that all prospective pilots must complete. To qualify for the program, which is a full-time endeavor lasting up to three years, an applicant must already be an accomplished vessel captain. He or she must hold a United States Coast Guard Master's License with radar endorsement and have two years' command or piloting experience ; and



WHEREAS, All active duty pilots must also participate in a board-sponsored continuing education program; and

WHEREAS, Due to their training, skill, and dedication, the members of the San Francisco Bar Pilots have achieved a 99.99% record of vessel movements with no pilot error; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, meeting in the historic State Capitol in Benicia, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That it is with great pride that the Legislature of the State of California honors both the former and current members of the San Francisco Bar Pilots for their important role, throughout California's history, in the enhancement of maritime commerce, protection of cargoes, and safeguarding the fragile environment of the bays and rivers on which they have served; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

